



Govt. of India

STATEMENT BY MR. V.K. NAMBIAR, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE ON THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE
AND SECURITY CAUSED BY TERRORIST ACTS IN THE
SECURITY COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 4, 2002

Mr. President,

We extend our warmest congratulations to you on your assumption to the Presidency of the Council for this month and wish you success in dealing with the complicated issues engaging the attention of this body. We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Bulgaria on the work achieved during the month of its presidency, coinciding as it did with the anniversary of the September 11 attacks and the General Debate of the UNGA.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate Angola, Chile, Germany, Pakistan and Spain on their election by the General Assembly to the Council from next year.

Mr. President,

We commend your initiative in convening this open meeting of the Council on counter-terrorism, which is the overriding concern of the international community today. One year after the catastrophe of September 11 such a meeting is opportune to review the progress achieved in our common endeavour to extirpate this phenomenon from our midst and to assess what more requires to be done in this regard.

Mr. President,

For some decades, global terrorism has fixed its malign attention upon many countries across the world bringing in its wake the pain and waste of human tragedy through wanton murders, mindless mayhem and indiscriminate destruction.

In recent years this phenomenon has become more pervasive, organized and networked, arising as it has from the debris of the polarizations, divisions and conflicts which had characterized the cold war era.

The response of the international community to this challenge had, until recently, been generally episodic, sometimes apathetic, and characterized often by tokenism. Perhaps this was due to a sense of immunity felt by some societies from the worst manifestations of this phenomenon. Without their conscious engagement, political will and determination, no struggle against terrorism could become a global reality. States that were victims of terrorism, who hitherto faced this challenge on their own, now find support and sympathy. Indeed they have now been asked to join the coalition to combat this global evil.

We in India believe terrorism is a common enemy of all peoples, of all beliefs and all religions. It is a disorder which seeks to undermine the peaceful, democratic and cooperative order that most civil societies aspire to attain. The

act of terror is intended to cause physical, psychological, social and political damage of a scale that is meant to destabilize communities and to disrupt and retard peace, economic progress and development, social harmony and political institution building. We know from experience that open, liberal and democratic societies are particularly vulnerable.

Mr. President,

India has been a victim of state-sponsored, cross-border terrorism for two decades now, with a horrendous toll in tens of thousands. The recent terrorist attack in a place of worship in Gandhinagar, Gujarat left over 30 innocent men, women and children dead and hundreds of others wounded. The determination of the people of the state of Jammu & Kashmir to exercise their electoral rights to choose their representatives has been marred by a campaign of intimidation and terror inspired from across the border. This campaign has been designed specifically to foster a climate of fear and instability. But as is abundantly clear in all democratic societies and expressly confirmed in this case too, the preferred option

invariably is that of the “ballot” over the “bullet.” Our commitment to the preservation of the rule of law remains undiminished.

Mr. President,

The international community has responded to the collective challenge created by terrorism and its backers through resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. The global war against terrorism has so far been successfully conducted against the Al Qaeda and resulted in the removal of the regressive and obscurantist Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Security Council Resolution 1373 has sent a clear and unambiguous message that the world community will no longer tolerate terrorists or their sponsors; that the international community is determined to hold the perpetrators and instigators of terror to account; and that the civilized world would no longer permit such acts to be conducted with impunity. India unreservedly supports Resolution 1373.

The anguish and suffering caused by terrorism is well known to us. We have fought this terror and will continue to

do so, with unflinching determination and resolve. We have also gained valuable lessons from this tragic period. It is with this background that we would like to share with you some suggestions which, we hope, will be beneficial to the implementation of the Counter-terrorism Resolution and a more effective response from the Council and the Committee to this grave threat to international peace and security.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has worked with unceasing effort to coordinate an international approach to tackle international terrorism. We commend Ambassador Greenstock and his colleagues in the Committee as well as the experts who have helped in furthering its work for their untiring labour and productive results. We appreciate the fact that the Chairman of the Committee has held regular briefings sessions for member states on the progress made by the Committee in implementing the Resolution. Member states have responded promptly to the Resolution, judged by the fact that around 174 national reports have been received by the CTC in the first round of

reporting while 83 countries have submitted a second round of reports. This reflects the importance the membership attaches to the work of the Committee and the support it enjoys across the board. I would like to reiterate here that India is fully committed to implementing its obligations under UNSCR 1373. We have submitted two reports so far.

The CTC has been doing commendable work in persuading member states to take legislative and other measures that comply with resolution 1373. But there is a long way to go before we can say we have been able to make resolution 1373 really effective and operational. It is not beyond the knowledge of this august assembly that even when member states have ratified other anti-terrorism conventions there have been more than one instance of blatant non-compliance. Neither the UN nor the member state affected has been able to do much about it. Therefore enforceability of violations assumes significance.

I would like draw the particular attention of this assembly to sub-paragraphs 2(b) (d) and (e) and 3(a) of

resolution 1373. They deal with what I would call cross-border or transnational terrorism. These sub-paragraphs mandate members to take actions to prevent financial planning and facilitations of terrorism against other states. Sub para 2(e) calls upon states to bring perpetrators of such offences to justice. Member states may say they have complied with these provisions in letter. But how is the CTC or the Security Council going to account for the complaint of a member state which is a victim of such cross-border terrorist acts? What is the action that can be taken against errant member states?

Mr. President,

There is a growing momentum towards ratification of all the 12 sectoral conventions on terrorism. Countries have also, either strengthened existing legislation to tackle terrorism as also institutions, procedures and mechanisms to combat financing of terrorism, or, where these were absent, have begun to do so. These achievements should not be underestimated and the approach adopted by the CTC so far in eliciting

information and then probing countries in a manner encouraging them to introspect on the deficiencies in their legal system has served a useful purpose.

However, some work still remains. There are countries which have not submitted any report either because of lack of capacity or other reasons. An approach by the CTC on providing technical assistance, where required, may be useful in such context. There have also been some references to a possible regional approach. This may not be relevant in regions where terrorism emanate from within the region.

Mr. President,

I have earlier reiterated that Resolution 1373 marks a watershed in our common combat against terrorism. In our view, it is a timely and ambitious undertaking of the Security Council in fulfillment of its responsibility to maintain international peace and security. The Council must act swiftly and resolutely to implement the Counter-terrorism Resolution with neither fear nor favour. I compliment the Council on the purposeful start it has made and would like to assure you that the Council and its Committee will have my delegation's full support in the fulfillment of their mandate.

BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS